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| SECTION 25A REPORT | | | | |
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| Report Date | Local Authority | Prepared By |
| Date | Waterford City &County Council | Name |

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The purpose of the table below is to assist the local authority in completing the Section 25A (1) report to the Regional Assembly. This report will be used by the Regional Assembly to complete the Section 25A(2) Monitoring Report to be submitted to NOAC and which will focus on progress made in securing the overall objectives of the RSES.

It is intended that the Monitoring Report will be succinct and therefore we would ask that the response to the questions are as short as possible and for example we do not need the full detail of each policy or program outlined.

The Regional Assembly is keen to capture examples of good practice initiatives and actions undertaken by the Local Authority which relate to the objectives of RSES and would welcome the inclusion of such examples where appropriate.

For further information, please contact Dominic Walsh at dwalsh@southernassembly.ie or Alice Byrne Kelly at abyrnekelly@southernassembly.ie;

Please return the report to this office by Friday, 21st January, 2022.

This can be submitted by email to twoyearreport@southernassembly.ie;

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| RSES tHEME & rpo Reference | RSES IMPLEMENTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY & SUPPORTING PROJECTS/INITIATIVES |
| **SUSTAINABLE PLACE FRAMEWORK & A TAILORED APPROACH**  RPOS 2 TO 30 | **Has the Core Strategy been prepared in accordance with the guiding principles and typology of settlement contained in the RSES? Please provide a brief summary.** |
|  | The core strategy for Waterford City and county has applied the typology as set out in the RSES and the Development Plan Draft Consultation Guidelines August 2021. |
| **METROPOLITAN AREAs - GROWTH AMBITION**  RPO 6: Collaboration between Metropolitan Areas  RPO 10 Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas  ALL MASP Policy Objectives | **How has the designation of a Metropolitan Area & the MASP impacted on the following?**   * **Strategic Ambition/Vision/Identity for the City/Metropolitan Area** * **Cross boundary collaboration/key strategic initiatives in areas such as sustainable mobility, infrastructure delivery, urban regeneration.** * **Progress in compact growth targets in the Metropolitan Area?**   **Please outline any joint initiatives between Metropolitan Areas –Cork, Limerick-Shannon and Galway to advance the combined proposition for effective regional growth – E.G Exchange of good practice/ examples of joint research papers on urban policy.** |
|  | * Draft Dev Plan has relied heavily on the RSES and MASP in terms of identifying strategy and policy objectives. A weighted catchment has been utilised to identify area of influence of Waterford City. Generally Elected Members are critical of the RSES and MASP in terms of its confined area when compared to Cork, Limerick and Galway MASP area extents. * Initial collaboration with KCC regarding Joint Retail Strategy and MASP Implementation. * A total of 30 no. regeneration sites in Waterford City have been identified as being suitable for redevelopment in the CE Report on the Draft Dev Plan. 3 of these sites identified in current URDF program for targeted intervention. |
| **SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS**  RPO 11 Key Towns  RPO 24 Dungarvan | **KEY TOWNS**  **Please outline progress made in developing Dungarvan in its Role as a Key Town as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 24 Dungarvan.**  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |
|  | Draft Dev Plan has applied the growth RSES growth target for Dungarvan and Ballinroad with a focus on delivering more compact growth based on the town center first principle. Preparation underway of new draft Dungarvan 2040 strategy to inform a new LAP to be prepared in 2022 for the key town in terms of placemaking and developing resilience with particular reference to tourism and other locally important economic sectors.  Additional active travel infrastructure being planned with roll out in 2022 to further build on the opportunities provided by the Waterford Greenway along with additional supportive links to Gaeltacht na nDéise to support the role of Dungarvan as a Gaeltacht Service Town. |
| **SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES**  RPO 26 Towns & Villages  RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework | **How Does the Development Plan support strengthening the role and viability of towns and villages?**  Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives including details of housing units planned/developed through programs such as the ‘small towns and villages growth program 2020-2024’ and progress made in the provision of services sites |
|  | Draft Development Plan support of these initiatives through its core strategy and policy objectives. The following policy objectives are of relevance: CS 12 Rural Regeneration, CS 15 Rural Strategy, CS 16 Rural Towns and Villages and H 01 – H 34 (inclusive) regarding housing provision.  No programs or projects put in place to date. |
| **RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES**  RPO 27 Rural  RPO 28 Collaboration/Partnership  RPO 29 Rural Settlement Networks  RPO 43 Rural Economy & EU Good Practice  RPO 44 Common Agricultural Policy  RPO 45 Action Plan for Rural Development  RPO 46 Digital and Physical  Infrastructure in Rural Areas  RPO 47 Rural Partnership Models  RPO 48 Innovation Hubs and Centres  of Excellence  RPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas  RPO 50 Diversification | **How Does Development Plan policy support vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development?**  **Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives including those relating to island and coastal communities, the development of networks / shared resources between settlements?**  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice, and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. E.G new walking/cycling routes developed between adjoining rural areas/villages, joint initiatives to support tourism, joint projects to develop digital and training resources. |
|  | Draft Development Plan support of these initiatives through its core strategy and policy objectives. The following policy objectives are of relevance: CS 12 Rural Regeneration, CS 15 Rural Strategy, ECON 02 Strategic Employment Locations including rural clusters/synergies, ECON 10 City & Town Centre First Approach, ECON 06 Regeneration, ECON 11 – ECON 17 (inclusive) relating to Rural & Marine Economy, ECON 21 – 23 (inclusive) relating to Tourism, UTL 06 Urban Wastewater Treatment, UTL 16 ICT/ Communication. In particular the following rural clusters are identified as important:   * Blackwater Valley * Copper Coast * Comeragh Uplands * Waterford Estuary * Waterford Greenway * Gaeltacht na nDéise   The following potential networks are also supported in the draft Dev Plan in a manner consistent with the RSES:   * Limerick – Waterford Transport and Economic Network: This potential network along a strategic east-west axis across the region links the cities and MASP areas of Limerick and Waterford and the Atlantic Economic Corridor and Eastern Corridor along with the Key Town of Clonmel and the towns of Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir, and Tipperary. Early initiatives along this axis include the River Suir Blueway. * Waterford-Kilkenny-Carlow-Dublin M9/Rail Network: A potential inter-regional network and opportunity for economic collaboration connecting the Waterford Metropolitan Area and Key   Towns of Carlow and Kilkenny City on a strategic road and rail corridor linking the region to the Dublin Metropolitan Area and Eastern and Midland Region.   * Cork, Limerick-Shannon, and Waterford Metropolitan Area Network. * Cork to Waterford Transport and Economic Network including the River Blackwater Blueway and inter-county Greenway network. * Eastern Corridor (Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor extending to Rosslare Europort including   Gorey-Enniscorthy- Wexford & strong connectivity to New Ross, Waterford/Belview Port)). |
| **PLACEMAKING**  RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework  RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for  Place-making  RPO 70 Bidding capacity | **How Does the Development Plan support Placemaking? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.**  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice, and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. E.g., Improvements to public realm, developing new streets/spaces/pocket parks |
|  | Placemaking is supported through Chapter 8 and Appendix 5 by the provision of 29 specific placemaking policy objectives and a placemaking strategy. In addition, policy objectives relating to sustainable communities and amenity provision are of relevance. Policy Objective W City 18 Cultural Quarter and W City 19 Amenity/ Recreation and BGI Strategy are of particular note in terms targeted placemaking.  Current URDF program includes for the enhancement of placemaking and amenities across the city centre while RRDF program is focusing on settlements such as Cappoquin, Portlaw and Dungarvan also. |
| **REGENERATION & SUPPORT FOR COMPACT GROWTH** (These RPOs identified as relating to Placemaking in Phase 3 analysis of RPOs)  RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development  RPO 35 Support for Compact Growth  RPO 36 LDA  RPO 37 Active Land Management  RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative Priorities  RPO 176 10-minute” city and town concepts | **How Does the Development Plan address Compact growth targets on brownfield and infill sites? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.**  **Has the Development Plan identified priority locations for Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development?**  **Please briefly outline any examples of Regeneration Projects/Initiatives delivered to date or innovative examples of delivering quality high density residential development, successful brownfield development or any projects to develop lands jointly with the LDA** |
|  | The Draft Development Plan has identified key infill opportunity sites across Waterford City (30), Dungarvan (13), Tramore (10), and a further 70 across other settlements in the County. Support policy objectives do not refer to any target to seek the regeneration of these sites.  Policy objectives seek to reflect national and regional policies in terms of regeneration and active land management for a mix of uses but particularly for residential and employment. Additional policy objectives relating to reuse of vernacular buildings and other structures with added focus on reducing CO2 emissions and enhancing our built heritage. General focus on compact town centre first approach which is reflected in the core strategy and the important role regeneration plays in placemaking across all settlement classes.  Appendix 21 of the Draft Plan details a total of 123 regeneration opportunity sites to support regeneration and renewal in settlements of all sizes.  Preliminary discussion held with LDA regarding regeneration of publicly owned land in Waterford City. |
| **RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY**  RPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience  RPO 64 Facilitate new business  formation, growth and  industrial re-organisation  RPO 72 Brexit  RPO 74 Economic Risk Management  System | **How Does the Development Plan incorporate /support the RSES Economic Strategy? Please provide a brief summary.**  **Does the Development Plan incorporate policies to support and develop the role of the Region’s Economic Drivers?** |
|  | The Draft Plan (Chapter 4) supports and reflects the RPO’s relating to economic growth, resilience and economic drivers, particularly for Waterford City. Emphasis is also placed on the tourist and economic functions of Dungarvan as a Key Town while policy objectives also identify the importance of social enterprise, clustering, interlinkages within and across regions and the need to support collaboration across these areas.  Chapter 3 of the draft Dev Plan focusses on Waterford City as the key economic driver of the SE Region and supports the key growth enables set out in the RSES and MASP. |
| **ECONOMIC CORRIDORS**  RPO: 42 Eastern Corridor | **Briefly Outline Development Plan policies that will advance development of the Eastern Corridor** |
|  | *The core strategy recognizes the importance of inter-regional linkages along both the eastern and Atlantic corridors and the need to support the enhancement of these functional and physical linkages for the benefit of the city, county and beyond. The Draft Plan recognizes the importance of fostering collaborative effort and synergies across corridors and these are noted as being strategic employment drivers in Table 4.0.* |
| **TOURISM**  RPO 53 Tourism  RPO 54 Tourism & the Environment | Please Outline Key Development Plan policies that will support **Tourism development**  Please briefly outline wider Council involvement in tourism development. |
|  | Chapter 4 of the Draft Plan identifies significant tourism policy objectives which focus on both tourism strategy development and delivery, supporting and managing tourism accommodation and tourism attractors in a way that prevents environmental damage and supports community/social enterprise. Significant policy support is provided for key locally derived initiatives and those which support the delivery of Irelands Ancient East, Blue way and Greenway network development and heritage tourism.  At a broader level the Council actively engages with tourism providers, rural networks/local communities, funding partners and Failte Ireland among others to develop tourism strategies with key flagship projects such as the continued expansion of the Waterford Greenway and Dungarvan as a key hub and Gaeltacht Service Town, Mount Congreve, Copper Coast UNESCO Geopark, The Irish Sea Way, Waterford Cultural Quarter, Waterford Viking Triangle and associate continued museum developments, and many festivals to enhance the tourism offer across Waterford and build a reputation as a high quality tourism destination. |
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| **EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS**  RPO 62 Locations for Employment  Development | Does the Development Plan identify future **Locations for Employment Development**? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives. |
|  | Table 4 of the Draft plan identifies 5 key areas for strategic employment opportunities with an associated 33 strategic employment locations. These include strategically located regeneration sites (Principally in Waterford City, Dungarvan and Tramore) the TUSE, Waterford Airport and Port, enterprise and IDA lands across larger settlements, inter-regional corridors and rural cluster areas such as the Copper Coast, Blackwater Blueway, Waterford Estuary……. |
| **MARINE ECONOMY (RELATING TO Instructive RPOs)**  RPO 76 Marine Economy  RPO 77 Maritime Spatial planning -  Consistency and Alignment  RPO 78 First Mover under the National Marine Planning Framework  RPO 79 Shannon Estuary and Other Harbour Plans  RPO 81 Fishery HarbourCentres and  Local Authority Harbours  RPO 82 Seafood Sector  RPO 83 Island and Coastal Communities  RPO 84 Fishing Local Area Group (FLAG) Development Strategies  RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy  effects on European Sites and  potential for adverse effects on the  RPO 86 Marine Cluster | **Does the Development Plan include objectives that support development of our marine and coastal assets?** Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |
|  | The Draft Plan (Section 4.7) supports marine and coastal development as part of broader rural development policy objectives. Particular focus in on aquaculture, fisheries and leisure along with enhanced access facilities with a focus on maintaining high water quality. Policy objective ECON 16 of the Draft Plan refers.  In addition, policy objective ECON 17 refers specifically to the preparation of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for Waterford Estuary during the lifetime of the Plan in collaboration with the SRA and relevant neighbouring local authorities. |
| **CLIMATE ACTION:**  **TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY & SOCIETY**  RPO 56 Low Carbon Economy  RPO 57 National Policy Statement on  Bioeconomy  RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy  RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework  RPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change | Does the Development Plan **give priority to addressing Climate Action.**  Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses Climate Action. |
|  | Addressing Climate Change and developing Waterford as a climate resilient city and county are strategic policy objectives of the draft Plan. This will be achieved in tandem with our own Climate Adaptation Strategy and relevant updates.  The Draft plan identifies renewable energy targets while action towards climate resilience is identified as a key strategic ouotcome of the draft. As such measures to seek enhanced climate adaptation and mitigation peppered throughout each chapter of the draft Plan. |
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| **DECARBONISATION**  RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation.  RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the  Transport Sector  RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the  Agricultural Sector | Does the Development Plan include objectives that support **Decarbonisation**? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives including progress in identification of a Decarbonisation Zone |
|  | Policy Objective W City 20 identifies that Waterford City will be a Decarbonising Zone and supports measures to reach the target for carbon neutrality for the city by 2040. |
| **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY INCL. RENEWABLE ENERGY**  RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy  RPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan | Does the Development Plan **support the development of renewable energy in accordance with national/regional policy/targets?**  Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses renewable energy |
|  | Renewable energy targets have been set out in the Draft Plan (Chief Executive Report on the Draft). These are based on the most recently published national renewable energy targets. Wind energy maps are also identified. |
| **BLUE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**  RPO 110 Ecosystem Services  RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)  RPO 124 Green Infrastructure  RPO 125 Green Infrastructure Corridors  RPO 126 Biodiversity  RPO 127 Invasive Species  RPO 128 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 – 2020 | Does the development plan support the development of **Blue Green Infrastructure**, **ecosystem services and biodiversity.** Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses these areas  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |
|  | BGI/NBS are considered centrally as lying at the core of the Dev Plan and are specified as a key alternative within the Development Plan SEA Environmental Report. Policy objectives area set out to support the role of BGI in terms of amenity, tourism, climate change mitigation, infrastructure and in particular SuDS and Integrated Constructed Wetlands, while a specific policy objective is provided to develop a BGI Strategy for Waterford City in collaboration with stakeholders such as IW.  WCCC is currently developing an ICW to manage surface water runoff at Mt. Congreve as part of a significant tourism development on the estate and enhance understanding of the role of BGI as part of the overall tourist product development. SuDS will also form a significant part of the next program of works funded in Waterford City under URDF. |
| **WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**  RPO 110 Ecosystem Services  RPO 111 Water Resources  RPO 112 Water Quality  RPO 121 Effective Collaboration to Implement River Basin Management Plans and Water Framework Directive  RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)  RPO 123 River Basin Management Plan and Spatial Planning  RPO 124 Green Infrastructure  RPO 126 Biodiversity  RPO 127 Invasive Species | How does the development plan support the implementation of the **Water Framework Directive (WFD).** Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses these areas with particular focus on the strategy taken take to protect and enhance Blue Dot Catchments.  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. This should include internal structures established to improve the interaction between planning and water quality issues. |
|  | Section 9.4 and policy objectives WQ01 and WQ02 detail requirements under the Water Framework Directive and associated water quality legislation for the local authority. It is a specific objective to “Develop the associated Blue Dot Catchment network program under the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 to protect and maintain the excellent quality of “High” status river water bodies”. Figure 9.0 presents a map displaying the Blue Dot catchments within the county. Section 2.5.2 of the Natura Impact Report on the Draft Plan lists the Blue Dot Rivers in the county.  The local authority is aware of its obligations under Article 4(7) of the Water Framework Directive and looks forward to the statutory guidelines on planning and the WFD due to be published in 2022. In October 2021 Waterford Council issued a further information request for a development proposal impacting the Blue Dot River Glasha including a request for a WFD impact assessment requiring the developer to demonstrate how the proposal would not cause a deterioration of water quality in the river.   Submission of FI is awaited. |
| **DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY/SMART REGION/SMART CITIES**  RPO 133 Smart Cities  RPO 134: Smart Cities and Smart Region: | How Does the Development Plan support development of a **Smart Region/Smart City/Smart Towns**. Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.  In rural areas, please outline progress made in the development **of Remote Working & Digital Hubs** and other relevant initiatives for the optimisation of digital connectivity. |
|  | The Draft Development Plan embraces the concept of the Smart City and Region with a particular emphasis on utilising smart technology to enhance the quality and environment in support of a vibrant city centre neighbourhood. Furthermore, the concept is referred to specifically in terms of its role in employment and innovation (S3.5 of the draft plan), transport (S5.13), achieving the Decarbonising Zone (S 3.9) and education (S 4.11).  Improving remote working facilities has been supported and funded through the Connected Hubs funding call for locations in Dungarvan Enterprise Centre, Dunhill EcoPark, Waterford City Enterprise Centre, Worklabs and Boxworks (Waterford City) in 2021.  4 new Enterprise Centres are due to open in Tallow, Villierstown, Lismore and Cappoquin in 2022, funded under the Leader Program.  Finally, in support of remote working in smaller rural settlements, 4 Broadband Connection Points have been developed in Modeligo Community Hall, Mount Mellary Community Hall, Knockanore Community Hall & Ballysaggart Community Centre to further support remote working with additional connections planned. |
| **INTERNATIONALCONNECTIVITY/ PORTS/AIRPORTS, FREIGHT & LOGISTICS**  RPO 139 Low Carbon International Connectivity  RPO 145: Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern Region  RPO:149: Airport Strategy for the Southern Region  RPO 141: Regional Freight Strategy  RPO 143 Ports and Airports | How Does the Development Plan support the **Region’s International Connectivity**, development of ports, airports and policies in relation to freight and logistics.  Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives |
|  | The Draft Plan recognizes the importance of developing connectivity to areas outside the region. In particular policy objectives ECON 09 and 10 refer to the support for enhancements to Waterford Airport and Waterford Port to increase commercial activity and investment into Waterford and the region.  The Draft plan recognizes the important role of rail freight and logistics in support of the Regional Freight Strategy (RPO 141). Furthermore, policy objective Trans 23 supports the development of rail freight to service Waterford Port and Rosslare Europort along the Waterford to Rosslare line while Trans 52 recognises the important role that can be played by smart technology in terms of efficient logistics in and around Waterford City in particular. |
| **ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY**  RPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities | **Briefly outline Development plan policies to improve enhanced regional connectivity – by road/rail and public transport services.** |
|  | Regional connectivity is recognized as an important enabler of employment and economic activity across all locations with a particular reference to inter-urban and sub-regional connectivity along the Limerick-Waterford Transport and Economic Network, Waterford-Kilkenny-Carlow-Dublin M9/rail networks, Cork to Waterford Economic Network and the Eastern Corridor (Table 4.0 of CE Report on Draft Plan). |
| **SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY / LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS (AND OBJECTIVES/INITIATIVES**  RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport  RPO 152 Local Planning Objectives  RPO 154 Land Use Plans  RPO 157 Local Transport Plans (LTP)  RPO 163 Sustainable Mobility Targets  RPO 165 Higher Densities | How does the Development plan support **sustainable mobility** –including walking cycling, the 10 minute city/ town, sustainable mobility targets.  Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives.  Are there plans to undertake **Local Transport Plans** in respect of relevant settlements in your Local Authority.  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight. |
|  | Sustainability mobility is considered in tandem with the broader concepts of the walkable 10-minute neighbourhood, supported by compact growth and where possible public transport and facilities for active travel modes. There are a suite of policies requiring consideration of sustainable transport in terms of integrated land use and transportation planning, permeability, housing development/scheme layout and design, mobility management and BGI.  Modal share ambitions have been identified in the CE Report on the Draft Plan in consultation with the NTA to monitor progress in achieving greater sustainable transport use during the lifetime of the Plan. Policy support is also det out for WMATS while the importance of developing greater modal shift through cycling and walking is supported through policy objectives Trans 07 – 13 and public transport in Trans 14 – 26.  It is intended that LTPs will be prepared to support the preparation of LAPs for Tramore and Dungarvan in year 1 or two following the making of the city and county development plan.  The majority of projects to date have supported active travel and segregated cycle and walking routes, notably along the corridor of the Suir linking areas along the Dunmore Road to the city centre. Works also underway to complete the Waterford Greenway lint into the city centre while projects to extent the greenway to Tramore is at planning feasibility stage. Greenway bridge link to North Quays at advanced design and plan stage and nearing implementation. |
| **INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE**  RPO 181 Equal Access  RPO 182 Ageing Population | Does the Development Plan include policies that will support and develop **Inclusive Communities and Places**? Please provide a brief summary of plan objectives & other initiatives that will improve **Social Inclusion and Quality of Life.** |
|  | Section 7.17 deals specifically with social inclusion issues in addition to equality and participation, supported by policy objectives SC 02, 07 and 08 which commit to reducing forms of social exclusion and ensuring improved access to services and facilities, engagement in decision making and community building/placemaking for all sectors of our communities including minority groups, elderly, youth, special needs groups and other marginalised groups/persons. |
| **LEARNING REGION**  RPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63,  Also, RPO 187 Education & Training, RPO 190 Lifelong Learning & Healthy Cities Initiative | **Does the Development Plan include policies that support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region?**  Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives  Does the Development Plan include policies that support the development of UNESCO Learning Cities?  Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | The draft Development Plan reflects the statements and policy objectives of the RSES in terms of lifelong learning. A principal objective for the MASP area is to ensure lifelong learning and the learning city are achieved through the TUSE and broader education sector/service providers. It is also one of the key strategic outcomes of the Plan as set out in section 1.6 i.e.,” To support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy underpinned by enterprise, innovation and skills and access to quality education for all”.  This is further supported by the provisions of section 4.0 reiterating the importance of lifelong learning to our citizens, communities and broader economy. In this regard policy objective EDU 01 refers to the role of lifelong learning, drawing on the potential to be delivered through the TUSE and other opportunities across the city/ county.  The Learning City concept is also supported as above in the strategic outcomes underpinning the draft plan while the vision statement refers specifically to the UNESCO Learning City and its importance for Waterford city and broader area/region. Policy objective W City 17 also supports the role of Waterford in this regard and the importance of the UNESCO initiative is similarly recognized as underpinning the economic and social wellbeing of Waterford in section 4.0 of the draft plan. Policy objectives EDU 02 and 03 also refer to the importance of the Learning City and how the initiative is supported through the draft Development Plan. |
| **CULTURE, HERITAGE & THE ARTS** | Does the Development Plan include policies that support **culture, heritage & the arts**?  Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | The Draft Plan includes several policy objectives to supports the arts and culture and supports the development of the Cultural Quarter in Waterford City under W City 18 (Ch 3). Chapter 7 of the Draft plan sets out additional policy objectives relating to supporting cultural diversity and supporting facilities in the interest of building socially diverse communities. With specific reference to arts and culture facilities policy objectives SC 26 – 29 refer to supporting the delivery of the Cultural and Creativity Strategy, supporting and developing facilities and festivals and delivery of arts projects |
| **GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH LANGUAGE NETWORKS** | **Does the Development Plan policies that support Gaeltachtaí, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks?** Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | The Draft Plans includes policy objectives to support the role of Dungarvan as a Gaeltacht Service Town, in particular core strategy policy objective CS 13 (Chapter 2), and support for the delivery of Plean Teanga na nDéise 2018 – 2024 in collaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta, Comhlucht Forbartha an nDéise, and the broader community through policy objective ECON 14 (Chapter 4) recognizing the role of Dungarvan. |
| **RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS** | Does the Development Plan include policies that support **recreation & sporting facilities** incl. **blueways& greenways**?  Please provide a summary/overview of all recreation/ greenway/blueway projects planned /under way |
|  | Greenways and Blueways are supported in their roles as amenities, drivers for tourism and the economy and their supporting role for sustainable transport in the Draft Plan. In particular, section 10.3.1 and 10.3.2. and policy objectives BGI 06 – BGI 09 support the further expansion of these networks and support infrastructure while policy objective ECON 17, 22 recognises their economic potential in terms of developing tourism infrastructure across the city and county. Furthermore, policy objective Trans 10 seeks to deliver a more comprehensive network of interconnected blueways and greenways. Finally, policy objective BGI 17 seeks to ensure that the development of greenways and blueways is achieved in a manner that does not adversely impact on the receiving environment. |
| **REGIONAL VISION**  RPO: 73: International Branding of the Region and reputation. | **How does the Development Plan Vision incorporate the RSES vision for the Region as ‘one of Europe’s most Creative, Innovative, Greenest and Liveable Regions’?** |
|  | The vision set out in Chapter 1 of the Draft Plan supports the RSES in terms of the intent to deliver an attractive, prosperous, resilient and sustainable place built on:   * Our enterprise and inventiveness in the knowledge economy and high-value markets – with a particular focus on biopharmaceuticals, technological innovation, tourism, food and drink, fishing and the primary industries. * The development and growth of our educational capital through our university and its synergies with the broader economy; and, * Our unique built, historic, cultural and natural environment, which will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced as a key asset in underpinning a high quality of life and place.   Furthermore, the section 1.6 of the Draft Plan identifies the importance of delivering the vision through a set of strategic outcomes which duly reflect the vision of the RSES and that of Un Agenda 2030. These can be listed as follows: To promote development that is compact, diverse, sustainable, resilient and adaptive to climate change.To support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy underpinned by enterprise, innovation and skills and access to quality education for all.To support a sustainable and diverse rural economy and community; to promote sustainable tourism that protects the environment, creates jobs and promotes local culture and productsTo support, develop and sustainably strengthen our international, national, regional, local, and neighbourhood connectivity which will enable Waterford to realise its full potentialTo provide infrastructure and services in an environmentally sustainable way, which is planned and infrastructure-led and ensures the sustainable management of water waste and other environmental resources and supports economic development, human well-being and biodiversity gainTo adapt, safeguard and enhance our environment through sustainable development prioritising action on climate change across the region, driving the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient societyTo protect, conserve and enhance our unique natural heritage, landscapes, seascapes, biodiversity, built and cultural heritage assetsTo make places more sustainable, inclusive, diverse, accessible, and safe with the highest standards of design. |

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| Please also indicate the progress that has been made with respect to the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for your Local Authority. |
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| This could include detail on:The expected review date and preparation of a new LECP and any preparatory work that has been carried out to date or is currently being planned for. Please indicate timeframes associated with same. |
| The review of the LECP is currently on hold in order to be better informed by new guidance. The recent publication of these new guidelines now provides an opportunity to commence the review process. |
| **Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Local Authority and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process.** |
| There has been little progress in putting in place a MASP implementation body which is now overdue. It important that the MASP implementation body be progressed in the immediate term to assist in the delivery of the concentric city and the necessary infrastructure to support infrastructure led compact growth both north and south of the Suir. |

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| Please provide a contact point in the event that we need to contact you about this form. |
| Name: Hugh O’Brien  Position: Senior Executive Planner  Email: hobrien@waterfordcouncil.ie  Contact phone number: 0871324306 |